

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(90) 664 final - SYN 322

Brussels, 19 December 1990

Proposal for a

COUNCIL DIRECTIVE

concerning the minimum requirements for the provision of safety
and/or health signs at work

(9th) individual Directive within the meaning of Directive 89/391/EEC

(presented by the Commission)

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Proposal for a Council Directive concerning the minimum requirements for the provision of safety and/or health signs at work.

1. LEGAL BASIS

The proposal is based on Article 118a of the EEC Treaty and takes the form of an individual Directive within the meaning of Article 16 of Council Directive 89/391/EEC of 12 June 1989 on the introduction of measures to encourage improvements in the safety and health of workers at the workplace (1).

The Commission Communication to the Council on its programme concerning safety, hygiene and health at work (2) states in Section II, A, (2) c): "The Commission will revise the 1977 Directive (3) on safety signs at work to bring it up to date and extend its scope".

The Council noted this action in its Resolution of 21.12.1987 (4).

Furthermore the proposal is one of the new initiatives announced by the Commission in the Communication on its action programme relating to the implementation of the Community Charter of Basic Social Rights for Workers (5).

The proposal forms part of the action planned to cater for the social aspects of the completion of the internal market (6).

2. AIMS OF THE PROPOSAL

The aims of the proposal are as follows:

a) Extending the scope of Council Directive 77/576/EEC and strengthening some of its provisions

The aim of Council Directive 77/576/EEC is to ensure that a limited group of safety signboards and signs for obstacles and dangerous locations comply with certain principles. This proposal aims to make the use of signs compulsory under certain conditions and introduces new signboards and other types of signs, such as for the location and identification of containers and pipes and of fire-fighting equipment, markings for certain traffic routes, luminous and acoustic signs, adequate verbal communication and hand signals.

(1) OJ No L 183, 26.6.1989, p. 1.

(2) 88/C 28/02 - OJ No C 8, 3.2.1988.

(3) Council Directive 77/576/EEC (OJ No L 229, 7.9.1977, p. 12), as amended by Commission Directive 79/640/EEC (OJ No L 183, 19.7.1979, p. 11).

(4) 88/C 28/02 - OJ No C 28, 3.2.1988.

(5) COM(89) 568 final.

(6) White Paper - COM(85) 310 final.

The proposal also has the same very broad scope as Directive 89/391/EEC. It therefore covers more undertakings and workers than Directive 77/576/EEC.

As a result the protection afforded to workers will be improved.

b) Giving safety and/or health signs appropriate weight in relation to other methods of prevention

The proposal does not aim to give priority to signs. On the contrary, its first stipulation is that the preventive effect of techniques for mass protection or of the measures, methods or procedures used in the organization of work should be improved and extended, without the two necessarily being mutually exclusive.

c) Covering certain risks which may arise from the increasing movement of workers within the Community

The many current discrepancies between the safety and/or health signs used in the various Member States present certain risks in connection with the free movement of workers. The proposal aims to overcome such risks, particularly those arising from linguistic and cultural differences.

3. THE PROPOSAL IN RELATION TO EXISTING NATIONAL LEGISLATION

- a) None of the provisions taken over from Directive 77/576/EEC as amended by Directive 79/640/EEC (certain definitions, principles, general provisions and signs) will have much, if any, effect on national legislation, since these earlier directives have already been incorporated into national law.

Furthermore, the proposal aims to extend the Community provisions on the classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous substances and preparations to containers which are not marketed. In this respect it should be noted that the provisions referred to above on marketed containers are currently being incorporated into national legislation.

- b) The proposal's provisions on information, training, consultation and participation for workers and some of its final provisions contain elements which relate specifically to signs, but take exactly the same form as those contained in Directive 89/391/EEC and individual Directives 89/654/EEC (7), 89/655/EEC (8), 89/656/EEC (9), 90/269/EEC (10) and 90/270/EEC (11).

These new provisions can therefore be incorporated into national legislation in the same way; Member States which have already transposed the Directives referred to above will have some experience in the matter.

- c) There are major discrepancies in the national legislations of the different Member States with regard to the new provisions contained in this proposal.

(7) OJ No L 393, 30.12.1989, p. 1.

(8) OJ No L 393, 30.12.1989, p. 13.

(9) OJ No L 393, 30.12.1989, p. 18.

(10) OJ No L 156, 21.6.1990, p. 9.

(11) OJ No L 156, 21.6.1990, p. 14.

As regards the use of the new signboards, colours for pipes, markings for certain traffic routes, luminous and acoustic signs, verbal communication and hand signals, the situations in the Member States tend to vary: all of these types of signs exist, but to varying degrees and in differing forms, and they are used for different purposes, sometimes generally and sometimes in limited fields or sectors. Finally, some are covered by simple, non-binding rules.

4. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PROPOSAL

- a) Directive 77/576/EEC is based on Article 100 of the EEC Treaty. This proposal is based on Article 118a of the Treaty, which offers certain new possibilities. It therefore repeals and replaces the earlier Directive, while incorporating all its technical aspects except for a small number of changes.
- b) The proposal is for an individual Directive under the new legal framework established by Directive 89/391/EEC. This means that a number of the recitals, the provisions on information, training, consultation and participation for workers and/or their representatives and the final provisions have all been drafted in accordance with similar provisions contained in Directive 89/391/EEC and/or the individual Directives referred to in paragraph 3. (b).

For the same reasons the definitions given in Article 3 of Directive 89/391/EEC also apply to the new proposal and need not be repeated.

- c) As provided for in Article 118a of the EEC Treaty, the proposal lays down minimum requirements. Many other signboards, pipe colours, markings and codes for acoustic signs, verbal communication and hand signals, could also have been included.
- d) Where possible the new signs and codes proposed were taken from or inspired by ISO documents or, failing this, what is already in use in one or more of the Member States. The proposal therefore aims to extend and harmonize these fields, rather than to introduce completely new provisions. The same applies to the principles, characteristics and rules governing use.
- e) The proposal contains a number of flexible aspects.

The most important is contained in Article 7, which lays down that the Member States may specify certain exemptions from the obligation to use luminous and acoustic signs, taking account of certain criteria.

Other flexible aspects have also been introduced:

- . the interchangeability of certain types of sign,
- . the fact that the pictograms or symbols used on signboards and the coded hand signals may vary slightly,
- . the freedom to choose the colour used for marking traffic routes,
- . the freedom to keep or introduce other equivalent types of signs applicable at Community level (acoustic signs and hand signals).

5. CONSULTATION OF THE PARTIES CONCERNED

Experts, government representatives and representatives of workers' and employers' organizations were consulted by the Commission and were involved in the preparation of the proposal.

The Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work (set up by Council Decision 74/325/EEC of 27.6.1974 (12)) was consulted and issued a generally favourable opinion, which was taken into account in the drafting of the proposal.

6. DESCRIPTION OF THE ARTICLES OF AND ANNEXES TO THE PROPOSAL

- . Section I (Articles 1 and 2) contains general provisions describing the object of the Directive and its scope and giving various definitions.
- . Section II (Articles 3-9) describes employers' obligations, distinguishing cases where signs are to be used for the first time from those where they are already in use, and provides for the possibility of modifying, extending or transforming existing signs.

It contains provisions on information, training, consultation and participation for workers. Finally it gives Member States the scope to specify certain exemptions within specific limits.
- . Section III (Articles 10-13) contains various provisions on adapting the annexes and the final provisions.
- . Annex I contains the general minimum requirements for safety and/or health signs at work, specifying the purpose of the various types of sign provided for in the Directive and the possibilities for interchanging or combining them.
- . Annex II defines the minimum requirements for signboards. It defines their intrinsic features and conditions of use and goes on to give a list of the signboards to be used.
- . Annex III relates to the labelling and colour-coding of containers and pipes.
- . Annex IV relates to the identification and location of equipment intended solely for fire-fighting purposes.
- . Annex V lays down the requirements governing signs for obstacles and dangerous locations and the marking of certain traffic routes.
- . Annex VI relates to luminous signs, their intrinsic features and specific rules governing use.
- . Annex VII deals with acoustic signs, and in particular gives the codes to be used.
- . Annex VIII contains the minimum requirements for good verbal communication, whether direct or indirect.

- . Annex IX deals with hand signals and contains a list of the signals to be used.
- . Annex X contains a table giving the articles of Council Directive 77/576/EEC and the corresponding articles in this proposal.

Proposal for a
COUNCIL DIRECTIVE
concerning the minimum requirements for the provision of safety
and/or health signs at work

(9th) individual Directive within the
meaning of Directive 89/391/EEC

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Article 118a thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission, which was presented following consultations with the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work (1),

In cooperation with the European Parliament (2),

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee (3),

Whereas Article 118a of the Treaty provides that the Council must adopt, by means of directives, minimum requirements to encourage improvements especially in the working environment, in order to ensure better protection for the health and safety of workers;

Whereas, under that Article, such directives must avoid imposing administrative, financial and legal constraints in a way which would hold back the creation and development of small and medium-sized undertakings;

Whereas the Commission Communication on its programme concerning safety, hygiene and health at work (4) provides for a revision and extension of the scope of Council Directive 77/576/EEC of 25 July 1977 on the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States relating to the provision of safety signs at places of work (5), as last amended by Commission Directive 79/640/EEC (6);

Whereas, in its Resolution of 21 December 1987 on safety, hygiene, and health at work (7), the Council took note of the Commission's intention of submitting to the Council within a short period of time a proposal for revising and extending the abovementioned Directive;

Whereas Directive 77/576/EEC requires substantial amendment and should be redrafted for the sake of consistency and clarity;

Whereas this Directive is an individual Directive within the meaning of Article 16(1) of Council Directive 89/391/EEC of 12 June 1989 on the introduction of measures to encourage improvements in the safety and health of workers at work (8); whereas the provisions of Directive 89/391/EEC therefore apply in full to safety and health signs at work, without prejudice to more stringent and/or specific provisions in this Directive;

(1) ...

(2) ...

(3) ...

(4) OJ No C 28, 3.2.1988, p.3.

(5) OJ No L 229, 7.9.1977, p. 12.

(6) OJ No L 183, 19.7.1979, p.11.

(7) OJ No C 28, 3.2.1988, p.1.

(8) OJ No L 183, 29.6.1989, p.1.

Whereas existing Community provisions mainly relate to safety signs and the marking of obstacles and dangerous locations, and are therefore restricted to a limited number of types of signs;

Whereas the effect of this restriction is that some hazards are not appropriately marked and that new types of signs should therefore be introduced in order to provide better protection for the health and safety of workers;

Whereas the many differences between the safety and/or health signs currently in use in the Member States lead to uncertainty, and this may become more widespread with the free movement of workers within the internal market;

Whereas the use of standardized signs at work is, in general, likely to reduce the risks which may arise from linguistic and cultural differences between workers;

Whereas this Directive constitutes a tangible step towards developing the social dimension of the internal market;

Whereas, pursuant to Council Decision 74/325/EEC (9), as last amended by the Act of Accession of Spain and Portugal, the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work is consulted by the Commission on the drafting of proposals in this field,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DIRECTIVE:

(9) OJ No L 185, 9.7.1974, p. 15.

SECTION 1

GENERAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 1

Object

1. This Directive, which is the [9th] individual Directive within the meaning of Article 16(1) of Directive 89/391/EEC, lays down minimum requirements for the provision of safety and/or health signs at work.
2. This Directive shall not apply to signs for the marketing of dangerous substances and preparations, products and/or equipment, unless other Community provisions make specific reference thereto.
3. This Directive shall not apply to signs used for transport by road, rail, inland waterway, sea and air.
4. The provisions of Directive 89/391/EEC shall apply in full to the whole area referred to in paragraph 1, without prejudice to more restrictive and/or specific provisions in this Directive.

ARTICLE 2

Definitions

For the purposes of this Directive, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

a) Safety and/or health sign

A sign referring to a specific object, activity or situation and providing information about a hazard or danger to health and/or safety at work by means of a signboard, a colour, a luminous or acoustic sign, a verbal communication or a hand signal;

b) Prohibitory sign

a sign which prohibits a certain type of behaviour;

c) Warning sign

a sign which warns of a risk or danger;

d) Mandatory sign

a sign prescribing a specific form of behaviour;

e) Emergency or first-aid sign

a sign giving information on emergency escape routes or first-aid facilities;

f) Informatory sign

a sign providing information other than that described in points b) to e);

g) Signboard

a sign which provides specific information by a combination of a geometric shape, colours and a symbol or pictogram, and which is clearly visible in daylight; its visibility may be enhanced by the material from which it is made or artificial light, if necessary;

h) Supplementary signboard

a signboard used together with one of the signs described under g), which provides supplementary information usually in the form of a short text;

i) Safety colour

a colour to which a specific meaning is assigned;

j) Symbol or pictogram

a figure which describes a situation or prescribes a specific form of behaviour and which is used on a signboard or luminous surface;

k) Luminous sign

a sign produced by a device made of transparent or translucent materials which are illuminated from the inside or the rear in such a way as to give the appearance of a luminous surface;

l) Acoustic sign

a coded sound sign which is released and transmitted by a device designed for that purpose, without the use of a human or artificial voice;

m) Verbal communication

a predetermined spoken message communicated by a human or artificial voice;

n) Hand signal

a movement and/or position of the arms and/or hands, in coded form, for guiding persons who are carrying out manoeuvres which constitute a risk or danger for workers.

SECTION 11

EMPLOYERS' OBLIGATIONS

ARTICLE 3

General rules

1. The safety and/or health signs laid down in this Directive shall be provided where there are risks or dangers which have not been eliminated by techniques for collective protection or by the measures, methods or procedures used in the organization of work.
2. Without prejudice to the provisions of Annex V, the signs used for road, rail, inland waterway, sea and air transport shall be installed, wherever appropriate for such forms of transport, inside undertakings and/or firms.

ARTICLE 4

Safety and/or health signs
used for the first time

A safety and/or health sign used at work for the first time on or after the date referred to in Article 12 (1) must fulfil the minimum requirements set out in Annexes I-IX.

ARTICLE 5

Safety and/or health signs already in use

A safety and/or health sign which was already in use at work before the date referred to in Article 12 (1) must fulfil the minimum requirements set out in Annexes I-IX by no later than one year after that date.

ARTICLE 6

Modifications to safety and/or health signs

Any modification, extension or transformation of a safety and/or health sign at work on or after the date referred to in Article 12 (1) must fulfil the relevant minimum requirements set out in Annexes I-IX.

ARTICLE 7

Exemptions

1. Taking account of the types of activity and size of the undertakings concerned, Member States may specify sectors of activity, categories of undertakings or types of workstation allowed a total, partial or temporary exemption from the obligation to use luminous and/or acoustic signs as provided for in this Directive, provided that alternative measures are taken which afford the same level of protection.

2. Member States shall consult the national employers' and workers' organizations in advance when implementing the previous paragraph.

ARTICLE 8

Information and instruction for workers

1. Without prejudice to Article 10 of Directive 89/391/EEC, workers and/or their representatives shall be informed of all the measures to be taken concerning the health and/or safety signs used at work.
2. Without prejudice to Article 12 of Directive 89/391/EEC, workers must be given suitable instruction, in particular in the form of specific directions concerning the safety and/or health signs used at work.

In particular, the instruction shall cover the meaning of the signs, especially signs incorporating words, and the general and specific forms of behaviour to be adopted.

ARTICLE 9

Consultation of workers and workers' participation

Consultation and participation of workers and/or their representatives shall take place in accordance with Article 11 of Directive 89/391/EEC on the matters covered by this Directive, including Annexes I-IX.

SECTION III

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 10

Adaptation of the Annexes

Adaptations of a technical nature to the Annexes shall be adopted, in accordance with the procedure provided for in Article 17 of Directive 89/391/EEC, in the light of:

- the adoption of directives on technical harmonization and standardization concerning the design and manufacture of safety and/or health signs or signalling devices at work;
- technical progress, changes in international rules or specifications and advances in knowledge in the field of safety and/or health signs at work.

ARTICLE 11

Directive 77/576/EEC shall be repealed on the date referred to in Article 12.

Any references to the repealed Directive shall be taken to refer to the corresponding provisions of this Directive, as listed in the table in Annex X.

ARTICLE 12

Final provisions

1. Member States shall bring into force the laws, regulations and administrative provisions required to comply with this Directive with effect from 1 January 1994. They shall immediately inform the Commission thereof.

The laws, regulations and administrative provisions adopted pursuant to this paragraph shall contain a reference to this Directive or shall be accompanied by such reference at the time of their official publication. The procedure for such reference shall be adopted by Member States.

2. Member States shall communicate to the Commission the text of the provisions of national law which they have already adopted or adopt in the field covered by this Directive.
3. Member States shall report to the Commission every five years on the practical implementation of the provisions of this Directive, indicating the views of employers and workers.

The Commission shall inform the European Parliament, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee and the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health at Work thereof.

4. The Commission shall forward periodically to the European Parliament, the Council and the Economic and Social Committee a report on the implementation of this Directive, taking into account paragraphs 1, 2 and 3.

ARTICLE 13

This Directive is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels,

For the Council
The President

GENERAL MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS CONCERNING
SAFETY AND/OR HEALTH SIGNS
AT WORK

1. Preliminary remarks

1.1 Health and/or safety signs may be used only to give information relating to health and/or safety.

1.2 A sign should be used in accordance with its object or aim in respect of existing risks or dangers, taking into account the rules governing the interchanging and combining of signs, as set out in paragraph 3.

2. Types of signs

2.1 Signboards should be used for permanent signs relating to prohibitions, warnings and mandatory requirements and the location and identification of emergency escape routes and first-aid facilities.

Signboards and/or a safety colour should be used to mark permanently the location and identification of fire-fighting equipment.

2.2 Containers and pipes should be permanently labelled and/or painted a particular colour.

2.3 Places where there is a risk of colliding with obstacles and of falling should be permanently marked with a safety colour or with signboards.

2.4 Traffic routes should be permanently marked with a safety colour.

2.5 Luminous and acoustic signs and/or verbal communication should be used when required, taking into account the possibilities for interchanging and combining signs set out in paragraph 3, to signal danger, to call persons to take a specific course of action and for the emergency evacuation of persons.

2.6 Hand signals and/or verbal communication should be used where necessary to guide persons carrying out hazardous or dangerous manoeuvres.

3. Interchanging and combining signs

3.1 Any one of the following may be used if equally effective:

- . a safety colour or a signboard to mark places where there is an obstacle, a drop or a slippery surface;
- . luminous signs, acoustic signs or verbal communication;
- . hand signals or verbal communication.

3.2 Some types of signs may be used together:

- . luminous signs and acoustic signs;
- . luminous signs and verbal communication;
- . hand signals and verbal communication.

3.3 In addition to being labelled, containers may also be painted a particular colour, as provided for in point 2 of Annex III.

In addition to being painted a particular colour, pipes may also be labelled, as provided for in point 1 of Annex III.

4. The instructions in the table below apply to all signs incorporating a safety colour, except those for containers and pipes.

Colour	Meaning or purpose	Instructions
Red	Prohibition	Dangerous behaviour
	Danger - alarm	Stop, shutdown, turn off power Evacuate
	Fire-fighting equipment	Identification and location
Yellow - Amber	Warning	Be careful, take precautions
Blue	Obligation	Examine Specific behaviour or action -
		Wear personal protective equipment
Green	Emergency escape routes, first aid	Doors, exits, routes, equipment, facilities
	No danger	Return to normal

5. The effectiveness of a sign must not be adversely affected by:

- a) the presence of another sign or another emission source of the same type which interferes with visibility or audibility; therefore, in particular,
- . the placing of too many signs too close together should be avoided;
 - . two luminous signs which are likely to be confused should not be used at the same time;
 - . a luminous sign should not be used in the proximity of another indistinct luminous emission;

- . two sound signs should not be used at the same time;
 - . a sound sign should not be used if there is too much ambient noise.
- b) poor design, insufficient number, incorrect positioning, poor state of repair or incorrect functioning of the signs or signalling devices;
- c) poor comprehension/perception by the person concerned (including linguistic aspects in the case of verbal communication).
6. Depending on requirements, signs and signalling devices must be cleaned, maintained, checked, repaired, and replaced (if necessary) on a regular basis to ensure that they retain their intrinsic and/or functional qualities.
7. The number of signs or signalling devices to be installed will depend on the extent of the risks or dangers or on the zone to be covered and/or the number of persons concerned.
8. Signs requiring some form of power must be provided with a guaranteed supply.
9. The triggering of a luminous and sound sign indicates when the required action should start; the sign must be activated for as long as it takes to complete the action.
10. Luminous and acoustic signs and indirect verbal communication must be checked to ensure that they function correctly and that they are effective before they are put into service and subsequently at reasonable intervals.
11. If the hearing or the sight of the workers concerned is impaired, including impairment caused by the wearing of personal protective equipment, measures must be taken to supplement or replace the signs concerned.
12. Stores of dangerous substances, preparations or products must be labelled as provided for in paragraph 1 of Annex III, or a warning sign placed as provided for in paragraph 3.2 of Annex II.

Stores of a number of dangerous substances, preparations or products must be indicated by the warning sign for "general danger".

The labels or signboards referred to above should be positioned, as appropriate, near the storage area or on the door leading into the storage room.

ANNEX II

MINIMUM GENERAL REQUIREMENTS CONCERNING SIGNBOARDS

1. Intrinsic features

- 1.1 The shape and the colours of the signboards are set out in paragraph 3, in accordance with their specific object (signboards indicating a prohibition, a warning, a mandatory action, an escape route, an emergency or fire-fighting equipment).
- 1.2 The pictograms must be as simple as possible and should contain only essential details.
- 1.3 The pictograms used may be slightly different from or more detailed than those shown in paragraph 3, provided that they convey the same meaning.
- 1.4 Signboards should be made of shock- and weather-resistant material suitable for the surrounding environment.
- 1.5 The dimensions and colorimetric and photometric features of the signboards must be such that they can be easily seen and understood.

2. Conditions of use

- 2.1 Signboards are to be installed at a suitable height, taking account of any obstacles, either at the access point to an area in the case of a general risk, or in the immediate vicinity of a specific risk or object and in a well-lit and easily accessible location.

Without prejudice to the provisions of Directive 89/654/EEC, phosphorescent colours, reflective materials or artificial lighting should be used where the level of natural light is inadequate.
- 2.2 The signboard must be removed when the situation to which it refers no longer exists.

3 SIGNBOARDS TO BE USED

3.1 Prohibitory signs

■ Intrinsic features

- round shape
- black pictogram on white background, red edging and diagonal line (the red part to take up at least 15% of the area of the sign).

■ Signs to be used:



No smoking



Smoking and naked flames forbidden



No access for pedestrians



Do not extinguish with water



Not drinkable



No access for unauthorized persons



No access for industrial vehicles



Do not touch



No pacemakers



Safety devices must not be removed or neutralized (with supplementary signboard specifying device concerned)

3.2

Warning signs

■ **Intrinsic features**

- triangular shape

- black pictogram on a yellow background with black edging (the yellow part to take up at least 50% of the area of the sign).

■ **Signs to be used:**



Flammable material
or high temperature



Explosive
material



Toxic material



Corrosive material



Radioactive material



Overhead load



Industrial
vehicles



Danger: electricity



General danger



Laser beam



Oxidant material



Non-ionizing radiation



Strong magnetic field



Obstacles



Drop



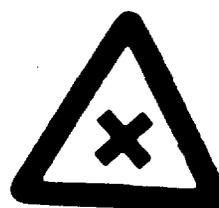
Slippery surface



Biological risk



Low temperature



Harmful or irritant material

* Sign laid down in Council Directive ... on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to biological agents at work.

3.3 Mandatory signs

■ Intrinsic features

- round shape
- white pictogram on a blue background (the blue part to take up at least 50% of the area of the sign).

■ Signs to be used:



Eye protection must be worn



Safety helmet must be worn



Ear protection must be worn



Respiratory equipment must be worn



Safety boots must be worn



Safety gloves must be worn



Safety overalls must be worn



Face protection must be used



Safety harness must be worn

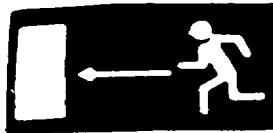


Pedestrians must use this route

4. Emergency escape or first-aid signs

■ **Intrinsic features**

- rectangular or square shape
 - white pictogram on a green background (the green part to take up at least 50% of the area of the sign).
- **Signs to be used:**



Emergency exit / escape route.



This way
(supplementary sign)



First aid post



Stretcher



Safety shower



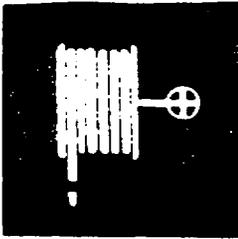
Eyewash

3.5 Fire-fighting signs

■ Intrinsic features

- rectangular or square shape
- white pictogram on a red background (the red part to take up at least 50% of the area of the sign).

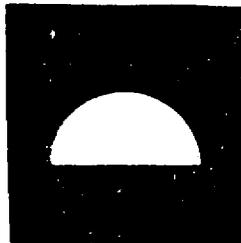
■ Signs to be used:



Fire hose



Fire extinguisher



Fire-fighting equipment
(general)



This way
(supplementary sign)

ANNEX III

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR MARKING
CONTAINERS AND PIPES

1. Labelling

1.1 Containers used at work to hold dangerous substances or preparations as defined in Council Directives 67/548/EEC (1) and 88/379/EEC (2) must be labelled as provided for in those Directives.

1.2 Signs must be mounted as follows:

- . on the visible side(s);
- . in unipliable, self-adhesive or painted form.

1.3 Where appropriate the signs referred to in point 1.1 must have the intrinsic features defined in Section 1, point 1.4 of Annex II and must fulfil the conditions of use for signboards laid down in Section 2 of Annex II.

2. Colour-coding

2.1 Where there are no other equivalent signs applicable at Community level, visible pipes must be colour-coded as follows for the main categories of contents carried:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| . water | : green |
| . air | : light blue |
| . steam | : silver grey |
| . flammable oils and liquids | : brown |
| . oxygen (gas or liquid) | : white |
| . gases other than air and oxygen | : amber |
| . acids | : purple |
| . bases | : black |

2.2 The whole length of the pipe must be painted the appropriate colour, or else rings be painted near the most dangerous points, such as valves and joints, and at reasonable intervals.

2.3 If colours other than those provided for in paragraph 2.1 are used, particularly to identify the contents carried more specifically, they must not cause confusion with the colours used to distinguish the major categories of contents.

(1) OJ No L 196, 16.8.1967, p. 1.

(2) OJ No L 187, 16.7.1988, p. 14.

ANNEX IV

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR THE IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION OF
FIRE-FIGHTING EQUIPMENT

Preliminary remark

This Annex applies to equipment used exclusively for fire-fighting purposes.

1. Fire-fighting equipment must be identified by using a specific colour for the equipment and placing a location signboard, and/or by using a specific colour for the places where such equipment is kept.
2. The colour for identifying this equipment is red. The red area must be sufficiently large to allow the equipment to be identified easily.
3. The signboards provided for in paragraph 3.5 of Annex II must be used to mark the locations of this equipment.

ANNEX V

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS GOVERNING SIGNS USED
FOR OBSTACLES AND DANGEROUS LOCATIONS,
AND FOR MARKING TRAFFIC ROUTES

1. Signs for obstacles and dangerous locations

- 1.1 Places where there is a risk of colliding with obstacles, of falling or of objects falling should be marked with alternating yellow and black stripes in built-up zones in the undertaking to which workers have access during their work.
- 1.2 The dimensions of the markings must be commensurate with the scale of the obstacle or dangerous location in question.
- 1.3 The yellow and black stripes must be at an angle of approximately 45° and of more or less equal size.
- 1.4 Example:



2. Marking of traffic routes

- 2.1 Traffic routes which are located within the built-up areas of an undertaking to which workers have access during their work, and which are intended specifically for the ground movement of transport or of handling equipment, must be marked on both sides by a continuous stripe in a clearly visible colour, preferably yellow, taking into account the colour of the ground.
- 2.2 The distance between the two stripes will depend on the width of the vehicles which can use the route.
- 2.3 The stripes must be located in such a way as to provide the necessary safe distance between the route and any object which may be nearby.

ANNEX VI

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR LUMINOUS SIGNS

1. Intrinsic features

- 1.1 The light emitted by a sign must produce a luminous contrast which is appropriate to its environment, in accordance with the intended conditions of use of the sign, but without producing glare.
- 1.2 The luminous area emitting a sign may be of a single colour or contain a pictogram on a specified background.
- 1.3 The single colour must correspond to the table of colours and their meanings set out in paragraph 4 of Annex I.
- 1.4 Likewise, when the sign contains a pictogram, the latter must comply with all the relevant rules set out in Annex II.

2. Specific rules governing use

- 2.1 If a device can emit both continuous and intermittent signs, the intermittent sign should be used to indicate a higher level of danger or a more urgent need for the requested/imposed intervention or action than indicated by the continuous sign. The duration of each flash and the frequency of the flashes of an intermittent luminous sign must be such as to ensure the proper perception of the message and must avoid any confusion either between different luminous signs or with a continuous luminous sign.
- 2.2 If a flashing sign is used instead of - or together with - an acoustic sign, identical codes must be used.

ANNEX VII

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR ACOUSTIC SIGNS

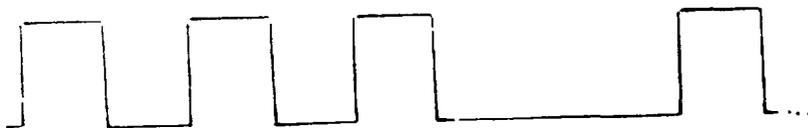
1. Intrinsic features

Acoustic signs must:

1.1 have a sound level which is considerably higher than the level of ambient noise, so that it is audible without being excessive,

1.2 be easily recognizable, particularly in terms of pulse length and the interval between pulses or groups of pulses, and be clearly distinct from any other acoustic sign and ambient noises.

2. Codes



emergency evacuation



request for help in an
emergency (call to
emergency service
personnel)

ANNEX VIII

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR VERBAL COMMUNICATION

1. Intrinsic features

- 1.1 Verbal communication between a speaker or emitter and one or more hearers should take the form of (sometimes coded) short texts, phrases, groups of words and/or individual words.
- 1.2 Spoken messages should be as short, simple and clear as possible; the verbal skills of the speaker and the hearing abilities of the hearer(s) must be such as to guarantee reliable verbal communication.
- 1.3 Verbal communication is direct (by means of the human voice) or indirect (by means of a human or artificial voice which is broadcast by whatever means is appropriate).

2. Specific rules governing use

- 2.1 The persons involved must have a good knowledge of the language used so that they are able to pronounce and understand the spoken message correctly and consequently behave in a way which is appropriate to health and/or safety.
- 2.2 If verbal communication is used instead of - or together with - gestures, code words should be used such as:

- | | | |
|-------------|---|--|
| . start | : | to indicate the start of a command |
| . stop | : | to interrupt or end a movement |
| . end | : | to stop the operation |
| . raise | : | to have a load raised |
| . lower | : | to have a load lowered |
| . forwards | } | to be coordinated with the corresponding hand signals. |
| . backwards | | |
| . right | | |
| . left | | |
| . danger | : | for an emergency stop |
| . quickly | : | to speed up a movement for safety reasons. |

ANNEX IX

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR HAND SIGNALS

1. Features

Hand signals must be precise, simple, expansive, easy to make and to understand, and clearly distinct from other such signals.

Where both arms are used at the same time, they must be moved symmetrically and for giving one sign only.

Provided that they fulfil the conditions given above, the signals used may vary slightly from or be more detailed than those shown in paragraph 3; they must, however, be equally meaningful and comprehensible.

2. Specific rules governing use

2.1 The person giving the signs, hereinafter referred to as the signalman, will use arm/hand movements to give manoeuvring instructions to the person receiving the signs, hereinafter referred to as the operator.

2.2 The signalman must be able to monitor all manoeuvres visually without being endangered thereby.

2.3 The signalman's duties must consist exclusively of directing manoeuvres and ensuring the safety of workers in the vicinity.

2.4 If the conditions described in paragraph 2.2 are not fulfilled, one or more extra signalmen should be deployed.

2.5 The operator must interrupt the ongoing manoeuvre in order to request new instructions when he is unable to carry out the orders he has received with the necessary safety guarantees.

2.6 Accessories:

a) The operator must be able to recognize the signalman without difficulty.

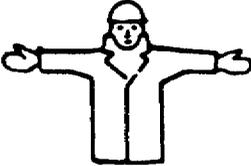
The signalman should wear one or more appropriate distinctive items, e.g. a jacket, helmet, sleeves or armbands, or carry bats.

b) The distinctive items set out in point a) should be brightly coloured, preferably all of the same colour and for the exclusive use of signalmen.

3. Coded signals to be used

Preliminary remark:

The following set of coded signals are without prejudice to other codes applicable at Community level, used for the same manoeuvres in certain sectors.

MEANING	DESCRIPTION	ILLUSTRATION
<u>A. GENERAL SIGNALS</u>		
START Attention Start of command	Both arms are extended horizontally with the palms facing forward	
STOP Interruption End of movement	the right arm points upwards with the palm facing forwards	
END of the operation	both hands are clasped at chest height	

MEANING	DESCRIPTION	ILLUSTRATION
<u>B. VERTICAL MOVEMENTS</u>		
RAISE	the right arm points upwards with the palm facing forward and slowly makes a circle	
LOWER	the right arm points downwards with the palm facing inwards and slowly makes a circle	

MEANING

DESCRIPTION

ILLUSTRATION

C. HORIZONTAL MOVEMENTS

MOVE FORWARDS

both arms are bent with the palms facing upwards, and the forearms make slow movements towards the body



MOVE BACKWARDS

both arms are bent with the palms facing downwards, and the forearms make slow movements away from the body



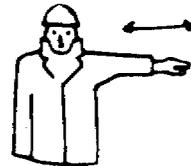
to the
signalman's
RIGHT

the right arm is extended more or less horizontally with the palm facing downwards and slowly makes small movements to the right



to the
signalman's
LEFT

the left arm is extended more or less horizontally with the palm facing downwards and slowly makes small movements to the left



MEANING

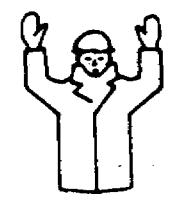
DESCRIPTION

ILLUSTRATION

D. DANGER

DANGER
Emergency
stop

both arms point upwards with
the palms facing forwards



QUICKLY

all movements faster

ANNEX X

TABLE OF CORRESPONDING ARTICLES

DIRECTIVE 77/576/EEC, AS AMENDED BY DIRECTIVE 79/640/EEC	CORRESPONDING ARTICLES IN THIS DIRECTIVE
Article 1 -- Paragraph 1 -- Paragraph 2 a) b) c)	Article 1 -- Paragraph 1 -- Paragraph 2 a) b) c): omitted
Article 2 - Paragraph 1 a) b) c) d) e) f) g) h) i) j) k) - Paragraph 2	Article 2 a) i) Annex II points 3.1-3.2-3.3-3.4 and 3.5 g) b) c) d) e) f) h) j) Annexes I Section 4 and II point 1.1
Article 3 1st indent 2nd indent 3rd indent	Article 3, Section 1 Article 4 Article 3 Section 2
Article 4	Article 10
Article 5	Article 10
Article 6	Article 10
Article 7	Article 12

DIRECTIVE 77/576/EEC, AS AMENDED BY DIRECTIVE 79/640/EEC	CORRESPONDING ARTICLES IN THIS DIRECTIVE
<p><u>Annex I</u></p> <p>. Paragraph 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1.1 - 1.2 - 1.3 - 1.4 <p>. Paragraph 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2.1 - 2.2 <p>. Paragraph 3</p> <p>. Paragraph 4</p> <p>. Paragraph 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5.1 - 5.2 - 5.3 - 5.4 - 5.5 <p>. Paragraph 6</p> <p>. Paragraph 7</p>	<p>Annex I, Section 1 Article 3, para. 1 Annex I, point 1.1 Article 8</p> <p>Annex I Section 4 Annex II points 3.1-3.2-3.3-3.4 and 3.5</p> <p>Annex II points 3.1-3.2-3.3-3.4 and 3.5</p> <p>Annex I Section 4</p> <p>Annex II, point 3.1 Annex II, point 3.1-3.3-3.3 and 3.4 Omitted Annex II, point 1.2 Annex II, point 1.5</p> <p>Annex II, point 1.5</p> <p>Annex V, Section 1</p>
<p><u>Annex II</u></p> <p>. Paragraph 1</p> <p>. Paragraph 2</p> <p>. Paragraph 3</p> <p>. Paragraph 4</p>	<p>. Annex II point 3.1</p> <p>. Annex II point 3.2</p> <p>. Annex II point 3.3</p> <p>. Annex II point 3.4</p>

FINANCIAL RECORD SHEET

PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL DIRECTIVE CONCERNING THE
MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PROVISION
OF SAFETY AND/OR HEALTH SIGNS AT WORK

1. BUDGET ITEM CONCERNED

B 6480: Measures relating to health protection, hygiene and safety at work, including specific measures in connection with the completion of the internal market.

A 2510: Compulsory committees (technical adjustments committee referred to in Article 17 of Directive 89/391/EEC).

A 2531: Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work.

2. LEGAL BASIS

Article 118a of the EEC Treaty.

3. CLASSIFICATION INTO COMPULSORY/NON-COMPULSORY EXPENDITURE

Non-compulsory.

4. DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION OF THE ACTION

4.1 Description

4.1.1 Objectives of the proposed Directive

- . The proposed Directive has the following aims:
- . to extend Council Directive 77/576/EEC as amended by Commission Directive 79/640/EEC and to strengthen some of its provisions;
- . to give health and/or safety signs appropriate weight in relation to other preventive methods;
- . to make provision for the risks which may be caused by the movement of increasing numbers of workers;
- . generally to improve workers' safety at work.

4.1.2 Characteristics of the proposed Directive (with particular reference to those with financial implications)

4.1.2.1 The proposed Directive and, in particular, its annexes are to be adapted and supplemented in order to define more closely or amplify certain aspects of the health and/or safety signs in question.

4.1.2.2 The proposal stipulates that the Member States shall forward to the Commission their relevant national implementing legislation as well as reports on implementation.

4.1.2.3 The proposal also makes provision for the creation of a committee to assist the Commission in any supplementary work.

4.2 Justification

The action is justified by the legal basis given in point 2. The financial implications will be associated with the additional activities to be undertaken in the future (see point 4.1) and are set out in point 5.

5. NATURE OF THE EXPENDITURE AND METHOD OF CALCULATION

5.1 Nature of the additional activities to be undertaken following the adoption of the Directive

- a) monitoring of the implementation of the Directive in the individual Member States
- b) revision of the annexes
- c) consultations with experts
- d) the running of the technical adjustments committee
- e) consultation of the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work.

5.2 Types of activity resulting from 5.1 with financial implications

These are:

- . study and/or service contracts for
 - the comparison and appraisal of the information received by the Commission,
 - the study of the problems associated with the implementation of the Directive,
 - the study of the problems associated with the annexes to the Directive and the preparation of adaptations to the annexes;
- . costs of consultation meetings with experts
- . costs of running the technical adjustments committee
- . costs of consultations with the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work.

5.3 Calculation of expenditure

As only the nature and type of the additional activities are known with no indication of their scale or number, it is impossible to make a precise estimate of the expenditure.

Costs are calculated on the basis of the "man/month" unit; at present, one unit is equivalent to ECU 4 000.

The cost of consulting a government expert has been estimated at ECU 390, or ECU 515 for a non-government expert (per day). The expenditure will be spread over several years and will be progressive. The figures given in 6.1 are general estimates.

As regards item A 2531 (Advisory Committee), the sum allocated is for holding two meetings per year of an ad hoc group of 12 members including four government experts. The ad hoc group will meet from 1995 onwards.

As regards item A 2510 (technical adjustments committee), the sum allocated is for consulting group 4 experts (government experts and others) at two meetings in 1994 and four meetings in 1995. From 1996 onwards a more restricted ad hoc group will be consulted.

FINANCIAL IMPACT OF THE ACTION ON INTERVENTION APPROPRIATIONS

6.1 Schedule of commitment appropriations (CA) and payment appropriations (PA)

Item B 6480

The appropriations for this action will be determined annually, depending on the funds available and the appropriations allocated for actions covered by this item under the budgetary procedure.

The estimated sum required for 1993 is ECU 200 000. From 1994 onwards the appropriations allocated for this action will be increased at least in proportion to those allocated for all the actions covered by item B 6480.

Item A 2510

	<u>CA (ECU)</u>	<u>PA (ECU)</u>
1993	-----	-----
1994	20 000	20 000
1995	30 000	30 000
1996	30 000	30 000
1997	30 000	30 000
	-----	-----
	110 000	110 000

Item A 2531

	<u>CA (ECU)</u>	<u>PA (ECU)</u>
1993	-----	-----
1994	-----	-----
1995	10 000	10 000
1996	10 000	10 000
1997	10 000	10 000
	-----	-----
	30 000	30 000

6.2 Percentage of Community funding in the total cost of the action

The Commission will provide 100% funding for the work provided for in the proposed Directive.

7. REMARKS

None.

8. FINANCIAL IMPACT ON STAFF APPROPRIATIONS

8.1 Personnel needed solely for the action itself

As from 1993, one full-time A official, one full-time B official and one full-time C official will be needed.

These resources are to be found either by internal redeployment or from the Commission's programming of its resources.

8.2 Appropriations needed for staff

The estimated appropriations needed for the staff requested under 8.1 are ECU 240 000 per year as from 1993 and will be covered by appropriations from part A of section III of the General Budget.

ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT OF THE PROPOSAL FOR A DIRECTIVE
CONCERNING MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PROVISION OF
HEALTH AND/OR SAFETY SIGNS AT WORK

I. JUSTIFICATION FOR THE PROPOSAL FOR A DIRECTIVE

- . The Commission Communication on its programme concerning safety, hygiene and health at work provides that the Commission will revise Council Directive 77/576/EEC (1), as amended by Commission Directive 79/640/EEC (2), on safety signs at the workplace, in order to "bring it up to date and extend its scope".
- . The proposal is also one of the new initiatives announced by the Commission in the Communication on its action programme relating to the implementation of the Community Charter of Basic Social Rights for Workers.
- . The aim of the proposal is to help to reduce the risk caused by existing differences in the health and/or safety signs used in the various Member States, given the increasing movement of workers within the Community.

II. TYPES OF UNDERTAKINGS INVOLVED

Generally speaking, all undertakings will be affected by the proposal to varying degrees, depending on whether they are already covered by national legislation or standards which are stricter than the requirements of Council Directive 77/576/EEC.

(a) SMEs:

The new Directive will be an individual Directive within the meaning of Directive 89/391/EEC (3) and will therefore apply to all undertakings, irrespective of size. No distinction is made between SMEs and other undertakings as regards safety signs.

(b) regional concentration

- . not eligible for regional aid from Member States;
- . not eligible for aid from the ERDF.

(1) OJ No L 229, 7.9.1977, p. 12.

(2) OJ No L 183, 19.7.1979, p. 11.

(3) OJ No L 183, 29.6.1989, p. 1.

III. WHAT DIRECT OBLIGATIONS ARE IMPOSED ON BUSINESSES?

- . Undertakings must fulfil the general minimum requirements for the provision of health and/or safety signs at work, which must be used wherever risks or dangers cannot be eliminated by techniques for mass protection or by the measures, methods or procedures used in the organization of work.
- . Undertakings must fulfil the minimum requirements for the various types of signs: signboards, markings for containers and pipes, the identification and location of fire-fighting equipment, signs for obstacles and dangerous areas, the marking of traffic routes, luminous signs, acoustic signs, verbal communication and hand signals.
- . There is a degree of flexibility in the requirements to be fulfilled:
 - the Member States may determine certain exemptions from the obligation to use luminous and/or acoustic signs, taking account of the type of activity and size of the undertakings concerned,
 - types of signs can be interchanged or combined.

IV. WHAT INDIRECT OBLIGATIONS ARE LOCAL AUTHORITIES LIKELY TO IMPOSE ON BUSINESSES?

Each Member State must incorporate the provisions of the Directive into its national legislation. Neither the Member States, the local authorities nor even the undertakings are required to go beyond the minimum requirements stipulated, but may do so, provided that the design of the signs in question is similar to those described in the proposal.

V. ARE THERE ANY SPECIAL MEASURES IN RESPECT OF SMES?

The proposal does not contain any provisions specifically for SMEs, but provides a degree of flexibility as described in point III.

The Member States may use this flexibility to benefit SMUs by defining exemptions as provided for in Article 7 of the proposal, and the undertakings themselves can interchange and combine signs as described in point 3 of Annex I.

VI. WHAT IS THE LIKELY EFFECT:

Preliminary remark: the following observations are drawn from the conclusions of a detailed study of the socio-economic impact of this proposal.

a) on competitiveness

- . the amount already spent by undertakings to comply with the provisions incorporating the 1977 Directive into national legislation should be deducted from the cost of the measures provided for in the proposal;
- . the cost of the measures should be assessed against the anticipated reduction in industrial accidents caused by inadequate signs;
- . the ultimate effect of reducing accidents will be to make Community undertakings more competitive.

b) on employment

- . the use of signs will not have a negative effect on employment in the undertakings affected;
- . furthermore, the Directive will boost employment in undertakings manufacturing, retailing and maintaining the various signs. These include many SMEs.

VII. HAVE BOTH SIDES OF INDUSTRY BEEN CONSULTED?

Experts, government representatives and employers' and workers' organizations have been consulted by the Commission and have been involved in the preparation of the proposal.

The Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work, set up by Council Decision 74/325/EEC of 27.4.1974 (4), was consulted and issued its opinion, which was taken into account in the drafting of the proposal.

(4) OJ No L 185, 9.7.1974, p. 15.

ISSN 0254-1475

COM(90) 664 final

DOCUMENTS

EN

04

Catalogue number : CB-CO-90-692-EN C
ISBN 92-77-68142-X

PRICE	1 - 30 pages: 3.50 ECU	per additional 10 pages: 1.25 ECU
-------	------------------------	-----------------------------------

Office for Official Publications of the European Communities

L-2985 Luxembourg